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The washer is a very ordinary product, and any automatic could turn out in a few days enough washers to cover the plant's needs. But all of the plant's exhortations fall on deaf ears within the ministry. The latter has shown complete lack of interest either in insuring an adequate supply of washers or installing an automatic in the plant. It does not even trouble to answer the letters.

Moreover, the plant receives hundreds of tons of different types of metals, but is unable to get a few dozen tons of the type that is essential to its production. As a result, its premises are stocked with metal, but it is unable to assemble any machines.

It is time to put an end to the planlessness, red tape, and bureaucracy in the Ministry of Agricultural-Machine Building. -- Sitov, Pravda correspondent.

PLANT LAGS -- Yerevan, Kommunist, 16 Aug 50

The Echmiadzin Machinery Plant is the only enterprise in the Ministry of Local Industry Armenian SSR which produces plows, harrows, and other implements for the republic's kolkhozes. This plant invariably fails to meet its norms. It fulfilled the 1949 plan only 24.7 percent and the first quarter of 1950 only 21.7 percent.

The situation changed somewhat with the appointment of the new director, D. Afrikyan. A pneumatic hammer, turning lathe, and milling machine, which had stood idle, were repaired and put to use. However, the successes thus obtained were not made permanent. In June, production began to fall again. For instance, a 70-ton crank press stood idle for 10 days in the molding shop because it lacked two bolts, which could have been easily made in the machine shop. A polishing machine stopped working for lack of a nut. Chief Engineer Bagdadyan ordered the machine tool taken apart and the shaft dismounted and threaded to fit a nut that was available; this operation took 18 days. Many examples of such gross inefficiency are to be found in this plant.

Another intolerable situation in this plant is the manner in which it is supplied with tools and materials by Mestpromsnabsbyt (Local Sales of Industrial Supplies). For a long time, the plant has been unable to obtain such necessary tools as drills, chucks, and screw taps. For want of Texrope drive belts, a drilling machine had to be stopped.

The plant's personnel consists mainly of young people, who built the plant only a few years ago and then took their places at the machine tools. They are still quite inexperienced. The Ministry of Local Industry Armenian SSR and the Echmiadzin Rayon Party Committee must give serious attention to the operation of this plant.

WARN NEW DIRECTOR ON PLANT CONDITIONS -- Frunze, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, 9 Aug 50

Enterprises in Uzbek SSR which are subordinate to all-Union ministries have been performing poorly this year in comparison with last. Plan fulfillment index for these plants during the first half of 1949 was 100.6 percent. First quarter 1950 was met only 93.2 percent, and the second quarter 98.8 percent.

One of the worst offenders is the Frunze Agricultural Machine Building Plant imeni Frunze. It is behind in the delivery of number of items. The cause of the situation is poor labor organization, excessive rejects in the molding shop, and irregular supply of wood and metal stock.

Shipulin, the recently appointed director, had better take steps to correct the situation.

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PLANT PUTS OUT INCOMPLETE HYGROMETERS -- Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 15 Aug 50

Last year, a number of cotton-raising kolkhozes were unable to dispose of their product because their cotton contained too much moisture. Much time was wasted in shipping the cotton back and forth.

Thereupon the Ministry of Local Industry Uzbek SSR assigned to the Tashkent Metal Products Plant the task of producing hygrometers for the kolkhozes. The plant was to put out 80 such hygrometers in June and 120 in July. However, it failed to meet the schedule. It produced only 150 of these instruments; and even these are useless because they are not equipped with weights and thermometers. The management was able somehow to put 50 of these hygrometers on the market; the rest are still lying about in the assembly shop. The ministry and plant management blamed plants of other cities for their failure. However, a check-up showed both the ministry and the plant to be at fault inasmuch as the order for the production of these items was issued too late.

REJECT SUGGESTION -- Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 15 Aug 50

Olender, foreman in the brush shop of the Util'promkombinat (By-products Industrial Combine) Artel, and Engineer Sedel'nikov of the Tashsel'mash Plant have designed a cheaper and more durable brush for the cotton-picking machine; the existing type does not last more than one or two seasons.

Though the new brush eliminates the need for materials which are in short supply and reduces the number of drilling operations, the brush is not being put into production. The Tashkent Plant approved the design at first. Later, Chief Designer Panov rescinded an order for testing the brush because, he said this would involve a complete change in the design of the separator. However, everyone in the plant knows that the new design would bring the plant great savings.

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